



# COMMUTER LINES

Volume 15, Number 2

2nd/3rd Quarters 2008

## DOTD employees brave Gustav aboard ferry

**O**n Sept. 1, Hurricane Gustav struck Louisiana as a powerful Category 2 storm. Less than two weeks later, on Sept. 13, Hurricane Ike made landfall near Galveston, Texas, as a Category 2 storm. Both storms left a path of destruction in Louisiana.

In the face of these two historic storms, DOTD employees played an integral role in helping the state cope.

In preparation for the storms, the department executed contraflow operations to facilitate the evacuation of the lower part of the state. In addition, DOTD used coaches, paratransits and school buses to transport citizens without their own transportation to and from shelters.

After the storms, DOTD began the recovery process by picking up and disposing of storm debris, repairing traffic signals and signs, and assessing repairs needed on the state's roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure.

While the department's role in hurricane preparation and recovery often take center stage, its activities during the storm are sometimes the ones that evoke remarkable displays of courage and dedication by DOTD employees.

During Hurricane Gustav, some of DOTD's ferry crew members volunteered to man two of the department's ferries at the Plaquemine ferry landing – the New Roads Ferry and the Iberville Ferry.

"During a storm, the crew keeps everything ready to go," said Delos Turner, port captain for the Plaquemine ferry landing. "We keep the main engines running, and if the vessel becomes adrift, the crew can steer it back to the shore. Also, the crew can replace the hard or soft lines if they break, or turn on the pumps if the vessel begins taking on water."

During Gustav, the New Roads ferry was manned by a crew of five, and the Iberville was manned with a deckhand, Bruce Michael Schafer. The ferries were tied to a barge with two hard lines (metal cables) and three soft



*Karen Kelly, left, and Bruce Schafer volunteered to man the ferries during Hurricane Gustav. Behind them are the doors they had to traverse during the storm. Other crew members aboard the ferry were Captain Steve Racca, Engineer Eddie Krass, Kim LeBlanc and Rodney Waldroup.*

lines (thick nylon). The barge was connected to the land.

The storm got bad very quickly, and the crew realized it would be impossible to leave the ferry. When the winds started to get really strong, Schafer was able to move from the Iberville Ferry to the New Roads ferry with the rest of the crew members – just in time. Not long after Schafer left the Iberville Ferry, the winds and storm surge were so powerful they popped all the cables and ropes that were attaching the Iberville Ferry to the barge, and the unmanned ferry became adrift.

The crew members realized it was too dangerous to remain in the watch room on the second story of the New Roads Ferry, so they descended the stairs to go to the crew area in the ship. To get from the stairwell to the crew area, the crew had to step outside to go from one door to the

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# BITS AND PIECES

with SECRETARY WILLIAM D. ANKNER, PH.D.

## Secretary notes recent successes, lists DOTD's upcoming challenges

**M**y first months on the job as DOTD secretary have been eventful. I told friends that my two fears about this job were defective bridges and hurricanes. In my first 10 days, I closed 10 bridges that I believed were too dangerous to remain open. Then, we had two hurricanes. Perhaps my biggest accomplishment thus far is that I have survived.

Seriously, I believe the department and I already have achieved some major accomplishments, and I'd like to briefly discuss those.

One of the most important long-term accomplishments is the passage of a bill that transfers vehicle sales tax revenues from the general fund into the state transportation trust fund over a seven-year period. Gov. Jindal and the legislature should be commended for taking this step, which actually puts Louisiana far ahead of most other states in how we finance transportation. Louisiana has, in effect, put a new financing dynamic into play that will serve us well in the future.

DOTD also received surplus funds for the second straight year. These state funds are going directly into construction projects across the state, pre-engineering activities or port projects.

I believe DOTD performed well during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, successfully overseeing contraflow operations in the New Orleans and Lafayette areas and helping to evacuate about 27,000 people from their parishes to safe

shelters and back home again. DOTD had never performed dual contraflow or a bus evacuation before, and I am convinced that we saved many lives from the storms. Our challenge now is to execute on the recovery end. We are in the midst of cleaning up approximately 2 million cubic yards of debris from the two storms. We also are preparing plans to repair roads and bridges across the state.

Moving forward, I hope to transform DOTD into a true transportation department, not a department that simply manages infrastructure projects. Transportation is much more than concrete, steel, budgets and bids. It's about giving people access to businesses, schools, hospitals and churches. It's about helping communities meet their goals through thoughtful planning. Transportation is not an end unto itself; it is a means to an end. By extension, I would like DOTD to stop looking at transportation on a project-by-project basis and take more of a corridor view. We must recognize that transportation must be intermodal and interdisciplinary if we are to be serious economic competitors.

Another thing I want to see DOTD move forward on is recognizing that we have customers. Cameras, message boards, 511 traffic reports, incident management – these are the things we have to improve upon for our customers.

I also hope to instill a sense of the value of time that, frankly, does



not exist at DOTD to the extent it should. We must realize that time has value, and when we fail to act with a sense of urgency, we are cheating ourselves and our stakeholders.

Lastly, I hope to engage others outside of the traditional transportation circle to join with DOTD in looking for future solutions to problems. When I think of transportation, I think of a community-based effort that involves education, health care, economic development, work force development and government. Everyone in those fields uses our transportation system, and all of them – all of you – are stakeholders in our business.

### SECRETARY

William D. Ankner, Ph.D.

### COMMUTER LINES STAFF

Mark Lambert

Dustin Annison

Sherry Dupre

Amber Hebert

Brendan Rush



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## FERRY (continued from page 1)

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next, exposing themselves to the winds. Two of the larger crew members – Schafer and Rodney Waldroup – had to link arms to create a wind shield so the smaller crew members could pass from one door to the next.

As the hurricane raged on, the storm surge caused the cables connecting the barge to land to pop. Then, the water became so high it caused the spuds – the long poles that anchor the barge to the river bottom –to float, setting adrift the barge and the attached New Roads ferry.

The strong winds swung the barge and the New Roads Ferry around so it was facing the opposite direction. Because of Captain Steve Racca's experience with hurricanes – he has captained ferries during at least four hurricanes, including the Cameron ferry during Hurricane Rita – he had the foresight to know that the safest thing to do was to steer the New Roads Ferry toward the bank.

But, as the winds continued to push both the New Roads Ferry and the Iberville ferry upriver, one of the engines went down. To get to the engine room, it took both Schafer and Waldroup to open the engine room door against the winds, allowing Engineer Eddie Krass inside.

Then, suddenly, the Iberville Ferry began heading straight for the New Roads ferry.

"It was lurching toward us like it had a purpose," said Karen Kelly, a deckhand who was on board the New Roads ferry during Gustav.

Racca knew that he needed to back the engines down before the collision occurred in order to lessen the blow to both vessels.

"The boat was creeping on us like a monster," Racca said. "I needed that engine. But they got it started, and just in time, too."

The captain was able to put both engines in reverse to just before the two ferries collided bow-to-bow.

"That saved us from a really bad wreck," Racca said.

Eventually, the storm began to pass and the New Roads ferry came to rest about a half-mile upriver from



*During Hurricane Gustav, the New Roads Ferry (right) and the Iberville Ferry were tied to a barge (left), which was tied to the Plaquemine ferry landing.*

the ferry landing. All of the crew members exited safely.

"I couldn't have picked a better team to be with me on the ride for the hurricane," Racca said. "It was scary, but we all worked as a team. And Capt. Delos got there to help us before daylight. I don't know what he had to go through to get to us, but he was there for us."

The Iberville ferry ended up partially submerged about a quarter-mile upriver from the landing. The New Roads ferry sustained damage to its rudder, and the Iberville sustained water damage. Both landing barges sustained structural and electrical system damages.

Turner said he has never seen anything like Hurricane Gustav in the Baton Rouge area.

"Nobody expected it to be like this," he said. "The waves during the storm were as high as 10 feet. On a normal day, a one-foot wave is considered high for the Mississippi River."

Schafer said the effects of Gustav didn't compare to those he'd seen before. He has been working on ferries for 12 years and has ridden out at least five hurricanes on a ferry, including Hurricane Rita.

"It was like the face of God was passing through here," he said. "I have never seen anything like it in my life."

Turner said that "the most amazing thing is that we didn't have a single injury."

Still, during the storm some crew members feared they might not make it through.

Kelly, who rode out hurricanes Katrina and Rita on a ferry, said she had never experienced anything like it.

"I never was scared to ride a hurricane, but I am now," she said.

Schafer, however, maintains a different attitude.

"I am looking forward to the next one," he said. "I am ready."



*The metal cables (right) and thick nylon (above) that tied both ferries to the barge were broken by Gustav's powerful storm surge.*





*(Left) During the jambalaya lunch, Secretary William D. Ankner, right, thanks the "Doo-Wop Divas," for accompanying his rendition of "What a Wonderful World." Doo-Wop Divas, from left, are Peggy Bueche, Joyce Rodrigue and Amanda Ratcliff. (Below) Doo-Wop Diva Leslie Roberson delivers a passionate performance.*



*Employees enjoy a fruit breakfast at Headquarters during Employee Recognition Week.*



## DOTD enjoys Employee Recognition Week

**D**OTD celebrated State Employee Recognition Week May 5-9. The theme was "Great Staff...Great Team."

Employees at DOTD headquarters hosted a different event each day of the week, including a fruit breakfast, root beer floats, and the annual jam-

balaya lunch. The jambalaya lunch featured a live band made of DOTD employees, featuring the "Doo-Wop Divas."

In addition, headquarters held a week-long "DOTD Gives Back Food Bank Drive" to benefit the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

*From left, Shirley Tregre, Candy Cardwell and Gerrie Penn serve root beer floats during Employee Recognition Week.*



*Joyce Rodrigue, left, presents a check for \$1,735 to Cecilia Gaubert of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. This check represents the total amount of money donated by DOTD employees during Employee Recognition Week.*

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# LeBas breaks new ground in gender equality

**L**ike many women, Sherri LeBas wears a number of different hats each day. She is a wife, a mother, a sister, a civil engineer, a volunteer, a cancer survivor, and now, a pioneer. In July, LeBas was appointed as DOTD's deputy secretary. She is the first female in the department's history to hold the second-in-command position.

LeBas has spent 23 years in state service. Seventeen of those years she has worked for DOTD. She began her career at the department as an Engineer-In-Training (EIT) in 1985, shortly after she received her civil engineering degree from LSU.

In 1988, her career jumped on the fast-track to success when she was asked to become the project manager for the I-49 project in Caddo Parish.

"After just two years of being an EIT, I was put into this high-risk, high profile position," she said. "My supervisor told me I could either sink or swim, and I chose to swim. I gave it my all, and I felt the I-49 project was successful."

LeBas said that looking retrospectively at the experience, she considers it an incredible learning opportunity.

"I was not spoon fed along the way. I faced some challenges and some periods of frustration. That experience prepared me for the job I am doing now, because as I work with project managers in the department, I understand the process they are attempting and what it takes to get a project completed. I feel that I can be a knowledgeable mentor to them."

After serving as the I-49 project manager for six years, LeBas moved on to manage a number of other projects, including the Ambassador Caffery Parkway and a segment of the TIMED project on U.S. 165.

Then in January 1998, LeBas accepted a position with the Division of Administration's Facility Planning Section as a project manager for a program called the Non-State Entity Capital Outlay Program. After three months of being on the job, LeBas told her director that she was pregnant with her third child. LeBas was pleasantly surprised at his reaction.

"He was very supportive," she said. "His response was, 'That is a good thing, right?'"

"My position at Facility Planning was very fast paced. In fact, when I went into delivery with my son



*Sherri LeBas was recently appointed as deputy secretary of DOTD by the secretary of DOTD, William D. Ankner, Ph.D.*

Michael, I was calling my colleague while I was on the delivery table to give him a rundown of everything that needed to be done for my projects. To this day, he teases me about calling him while I was in labor."

LeBas spent about six years of her career at Facility Planning, managing projects such as renovating theatres and livestock arenas.

"It was a real highlight in my career, because it gave me an opportunity to grow," she said. "I was introduced to the state's needs as a whole. I traveled extensively within the state to meet people in their communities, and I enjoyed hearing their concerns and seeing first hand their excitement about projects that would benefit their communities. It gave me a feeling of accomplishment knowing I was helping people make a difference in their communities."

Then, in 2003, LeBas began looking for other challenges to advance her career.

"I felt there were other opportunities awaiting me," she said. "I was at a point in my career where I felt it would be beneficial for me to take advantage of opportunities that would challenge me and help me further my goal of helping our state."

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**See DEPUTY SECRETARY, page 6**



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## DEPUTY SECRETARY (continued from page 5)

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She decided to rejoin the DOTD team.

“About that time, I discovered I had breast cancer,” she said. “I told the person hiring me, Kent Isreal, that if he didn’t want to hire me because I had cancer, I would understand. Kent said that this was not an issue and that they would work with me throughout my illness.

“So, I had surgery, and then I came to work for DOTD,” she said. “Life’s curves have been challenging, but being surrounded by caring and understanding people has been wonderful, and I have made life-long friends.”

September 15 was LeBas’ five-year anniversary of cancer survival. LeBas said her illness of cancer has totally changed her attitude about life.

“Going through a life threatening experience makes you realize what is really important in life’s journey,” she said. “The day after I was told I had cancer, I called a friend who had just gone through treatment for uterine cancer. My friend said, ‘Listen, you are not going to die today, and you are not going to die tomorrow.’ That made me realize I needed to take one day at a time. I would wake up every morning and say, ‘I have another day!’”

“I still take things day by day, and I spend time enjoying the simple pleasures in life. I realize that it is important to cherish the time we have and to not take things too seriously. I make sure I have family time and do the things that help me mentally, spiritually and physically.

“I am also more willing to take risks and I worry a lot less,” she said. “Having someone tell you that you have cancer – there is not a whole lot that can top that.”

LeBas’ new perspective on risks was helpful to her as she began to take on new challenges at DOTD.

Since returning to DOTD in 2003, she has worked on the TIMED Program, and then in 2005 moved to work with the Change Management Program. In August 2006, former DOTD Secretary

Johnny Bradberry offered her the position of assistant to the secretary for policy.

“My main focus was working with him to communicate to legislators and our stakeholders the need for more revenue in transportation,” she said. “Then in 2007, while I was serving as assistant to the secretary for policy, DOTD received surplus funds, and in 2008, legislation passed that moved the vehicle sales tax into the transportation trust fund.”

LeBas was offered the position of managing the high-profile surplus-funded projects.

“I was excited about being responsible for the risk involved with this position. Our goal was to make a hundred percent on letting the projects. The

DOTD team achieved this goal. If something has risk, I encourage people to view it as a challenge and just go for it.”

Shortly after William D. Ankner, Ph.D., became the secretary of DOTD earlier this year, he appointed LeBas as the department’s deputy secretary.

“When I returned to DOTD, I never entertained thoughts of becoming deputy secretary. I feel honored to serve in this role,” she said. “I work hard and look forward to the challenges that this position affords. It gives me a sense of accomplishment to be recognized for my efforts and hard work. We have a great work force at DOTD, and I enjoy working with people as a team to develop solutions to problems that will benefit our state.”

As deputy secretary, LeBas oversees the capital outlay program.

“I also am working on developing a package for the potential 2009 surplus, just in case we are fortunate enough to receive surplus funds,” she said. “I have traveled throughout the state and met with almost every parish leader or leaders to see and hear about the priorities for their communities.”

LeBas said she hopes her appointment as deputy secretary helps other women in the department realize that their goals are achievable.

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**See *LEBAS*, page 8**

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**“IF SOMETHING HAS RISK, I ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO VIEW IT AS A CHALLENGE AND JUST GO FOR IT.”**

**– SHERRI LEBAS,  
DOTD DEPUTY SECRETARY**

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# District administrators named Dunbar recipients

**T**wo DOTD employees were recognized for exemplary service April 2 at a ceremony held at headquarters.

John G. Sanders, DOTD's District 4 administrator, and Michael J. Stack, DOTD's District 2 administrator, have been named as recipients of the 2007 Charles E. Dunbar Jr. Career Service Award, sponsored by the Louisiana Civil Service League.

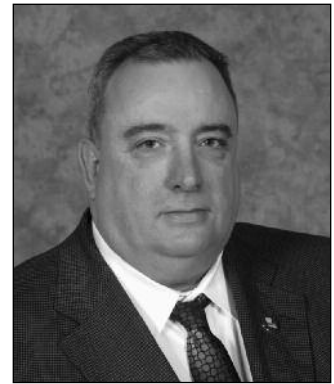
During the ceremony, DOTD Secretary William D. Ankner, Ph.D., thanked Sanders and Stack for their years of hard work and dedication and congratulated them on their success.

Daniel E. Sullivan, executive vice president of the Louisiana Civil Service League, also spoke during the ceremony, explaining the history of the award and the criteria by which nominees are judged. These include commitment to classified service, contributions toward work or workplace environment, personal initiative and volunteer career service.

Sanders joined the department in 1976 after receiving a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. In his 32 years with DOTD, he moved up the ranks to become an assistant project engineer, then a project engineer, and eventually a district administrator.



*John Sanders*



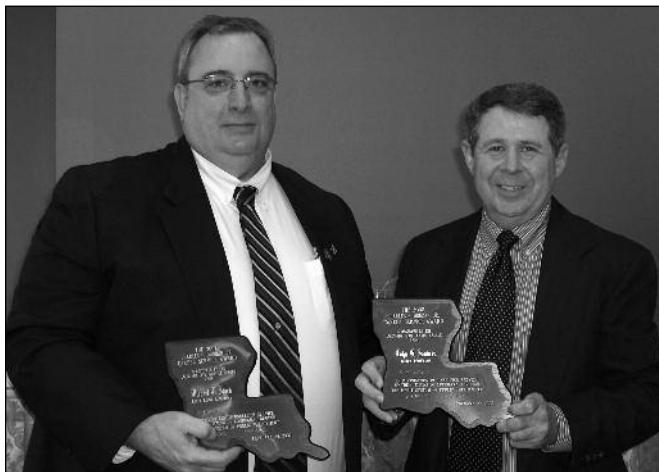
*Michael Stack*

Sanders has been involved in a number of noteworthy projects during his tenure, including several Interstate 20 projects and the Grand Bayou Reservoir. He was also involved in instituting an automated patching program that resulted in an extension in the life-span of overlays.

Stack began his career with DOTD in 1978 shortly after graduating high school. While continuing to work full-time for DOTD, he attended the University of New Orleans and obtained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1987. Throughout his career, he has held many sub-professional, supervisory and managerial positions.

One of Stack's most notable contributions was his significant involvement in the department's preparation and response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he developed an innovative engineering solution to stop a breach in the 17th Street Canal – even as he watched the water from Lake Pontchartrain rush through the breach onto the streets and lawns of his own neighborhood. This method proved so successful it was adopted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the way to close many of the floodwall breaches in New Orleans.

More than 600 classified public employees have been recognized since the Charles E. Dunbar Jr. Career Service Award's inception 48 years ago. Thirty-four of the past honorees have been DOTD employees.



*Michael Stack, left, and John Sanders received commemorative plaques at a luncheon hosted by the Louisiana Civil Service League Feb. 29 in New Orleans.*

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# DOTD implements new software applications

**Y**ou may have heard some buzz around the department about Trns\*port. What is it? It is a group of software applications owned by AASHTO currently being used by more than 40 state DOTs. DOTD is in the process of implementing three of the software applications:

- Cost Estimation System (CES), which will provide a tool to perform better cost estimations. CES production was implemented in August 2008.
- web Trns\*port, a replacement for DOTD's letting and award system, aka the BIDS system. BIDS will be retired shortly after headquarters conducts its first Production Letting with the new system, scheduled in March.
- Bid Analyst Management System and Decision Support System (BAMS\DSS), which will serve as the data warehouse for the entire Trns\*port system. This system is scheduled to be put into production by the end of 2008.

The department is already using a fourth applica-



tion, SiteManager, to manage construction.

The implementation of CES, web Trns\*port and BAMS\DSS is considered Phase 1 of DOTD's Trns\*port project. Currently, DOTD is in the Trns\*port pre-construction phase.

The planning session for Phase 2 of Trns\*port will begin after DOTD has used the Phase 1 Trns\*port modules for a few months.

Sarah Collins, project manager for the Trns\*port pre-construction implementation, said the software for CES and web Trns\*port is available for employees to start using.

"We need employees to play with the system – even try to break it so they can report any problems to IT," she said. "We'd like to feedback on anything that can be improved."

The Trns\*port application can be accessed at <http://h13001ms043:81/trnsport.web/login.aspx>. For more information, visit the Trns\*port Pre-Construction Web site (<http://h13001ms043>).

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## LEBAS (continued from page 6)

"Being deputy secretary has placed me in a position to serve as a role model for other women who, through hard work and dedication, can achieve whatever goals they set for themselves," she said. "The culture and attitudes about women in the work place have definitely shifted since I first started working at DOTD in 1985. Women are being accepted in leadership positions in the work force as never before. My generation of women and the generations before me have helped pave the way for future generations of women to accept and be accepted in leadership roles."

LeBas has had the support of other women engineers since she was in college. Eleven of her classmates (of about 50 graduates) were women. In fact, four of those

women – Debbie Guest, Terri Hammack, Beth Landry and Janice Williams – are currently employed at DOTD.

"I am extremely happy about Sherri's appointment to the deputy secretary position," Hammack said. "Sherri possesses all the skill sets necessary to be successful at whatever she chooses – intelligence, personality and leadership abilities. Her appointment has had a positive impact on how women are viewed in the work place."

Like many women, LeBas said she has struggled throughout her career with the unique challenge of balancing work responsibilities with being a wife and a mother. LeBas also does community service through the Baton Rouge Junior League. Throughout

the years, LeBas said her husband, Michael, has been extremely supportive.

"I would not be in this position if it were not for his never ending encouragement," she said. "We work as a team in running the household."

LeBas said her three children – Andrew, 20; Patrick, 15; and Michael, 10 – are very proud of her achievements. She believes being a working mom has helped her sons become more responsible and independent students and citizens.

"I am extremely appreciative for the support I have received from my family, friends, co-workers and administrators at DOTD, and I look forward to continuing to serve the people of our state."



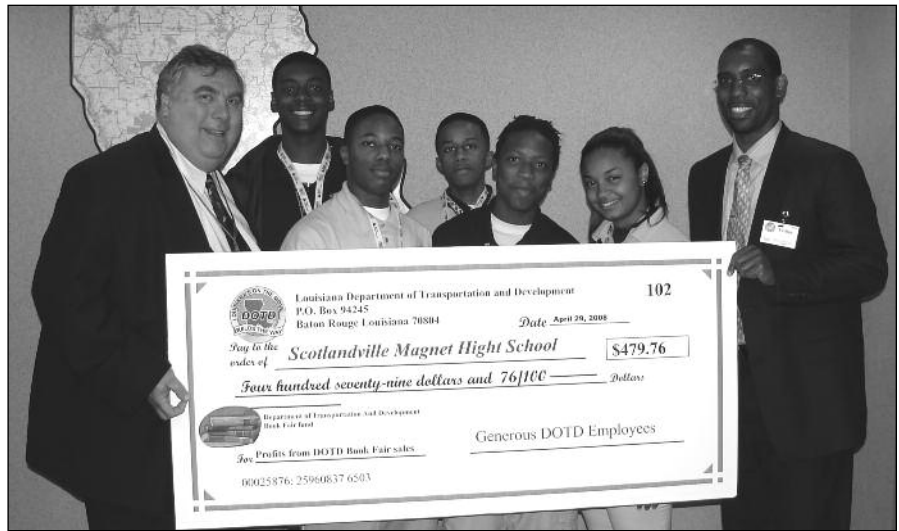
# DOTD employees cultivate future engineers

**D**OTD employees hosted the 2008 Job Shadowing Day April 29 for students of Scotlandville Magnet High School.

During this event, five students from Scotlandville Magnet were paired with DOTD engineers and engineer technicians. The day began with a tour of the department's Information Technology Center and its Intelligent Transportation Systems office. This was followed by "job shadowing," when each student accompanied a mentor to his or her workstation. At the end of the event, the students reconvened to eat lunch and share their experiences with one another.

The student/mentor relationships do not end with Job Shadowing Day. Some students in the Scotlandville Mentoring Program, mostly those interested in engineering, have periodic meetings with their mentors.

DOTD Secretary William D. Ankner, Ph.D., said, "Our department has a stake in training a new generation of engineers. The future of transportation in



*DOTD Secretary William D. Ankner, Ph.D., left, presents a check to Dilton Anderson, right, a member of Scotlandville Magnet High School's advisory council. The students pictured, who participated in DOTD's Job Shadowing Day, are (from left) Jerod Trotter, Steven Robins, Garrett McKinley, Allen Reed and Iris Smith.*

Louisiana is in the hands of our youth. They need to be engaged in engineering. I am grateful to the students, school staff and my engineers for developing this program and engaging in the transfer of knowledge."

Also during the 2008 Job Shadowing Day, DOTD presented a check for more than \$479 to the school's engineering program. On behalf of the DOTD employees, Ankner presented the check to Dilton Anderson, a member of

Scotlandville Magnet's advisory council. Anderson, a civil engineer who works for MAP Group Inc., has a son in the school's engineering program.

"DOTD's Job Shadowing Day and monetary donation will greatly help our school nurture future engineers," Scotlandville Principal Howard Davis said. "Public schools can always use a helping hand, and Scotlandville Magnet is no exception in that regard."

The money represents 10 percent of the proceeds from two "Books Are Fun" book sales held at DOTD headquarters in 2007 — one during the summer and another before Christmas.

Scotlandville's Magnet Lead Teacher Beatrice Arvie said the engineering group, taught by mechanical engineer Kanika Vessel, will use the money for various projects and field trips.

*Tyrone Carter, left, and Jason Dunlap, second from right, of DOTD's IT section give a tour of DOTD's IT Center to students who participated in DOTD's Job Shadowing Day.*




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## NEWS BRIEFS

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 High school students from East Baton Rouge and five surrounding parishes attended the National Summer Transportation Institute, held in June at Southern University. DOTD funds a portion of the annual program. Each year, up to 30 students participate in the program to learn the basics of engineering principles.



DOTD Secretary William D. Ankner, left, presented an award to Marian McManus-Mayeux of DOTD for her efforts during the 2007-08 fiscal year in teaching prospective law students about the public practice of law, supporting paralegal students through LSU's paralegal internship program, and participating in the annual Law Day educational programs of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Paralegal Association of Greater Baton Rouge.



 From left, Secretary William D. Ankner, Michelle Deshotels and Richard Savoie of DOTD acknowledge the receipt of a plaque that FHWA presented to DOTD to recognize the department's contributions to the Cameron Creole Watershed Marsh Terracing Project.




The present state route marker sign used by DOTD is getting a face lift. The original sign, which displays a green shape of Louisiana with a white background, will be replaced with white and black route marker plates over time. Although there is no written DOTD policy on the color of state route markers, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices encourages states to adopt a uniform state marker containing "black numerals on a white area surrounded by a black background with a border." The replacement of these signs will help DOTD save money. Green ink is much more difficult to use than black ink, which results in higher fabrication costs for signs made with green ink.




## NEWS BRIEFS



 Ryan Reviere of the Project Management Section makes a donation during the Blood Center's summertime drive, "Livin' the Givin' Life." The beach-themed drive was conducted July 28 at DOTD Headquarters. DOTD employees provided 33 units of blood that helped as many as 99 patients.



 DOTD met with Armenian transportation officials May 21 at LTRC's TTEC facility to discuss the department and some of its current projects. DOTD representatives made three presentations to the group: one on environmental issues, given by Jan Grenfell (second from left), one on the materials lab, given by Joubert Harris (far left), and one on road design, given by Chad Winchester (fourth from left). Debbie Guest of DOTD (third from left) also attended the meeting. The program was part of the the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

## Technology Transfer

The following employees became certified inspectors between March 1, 2008, and May 31, 2008:

### PORTLAND CEMENT

#### CONCRETE PAVING INSPECTION

Kenneth J. Reliford	District 04
Jessie T. Carraway	District 61
Michael S. Mansur	District 61

#### EMBANKMENT AND BASE COURSE INSPECTION

Jarrood Francois	District 03
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#### STRUCTURAL CONCRETE INSPECTION

John C. Adams	District 02
Brian P. Orticke	District 02
Jaime Glass	District 07
Richard W. Davis	District 58
Jessie T. Carraway	District 61
James E. Barber	District 62
James H. Bickham	District 62
Clint C. Cooper	District 62
Derek Duvic	District 62
Brett S. Frazier	District 62
Michael R. Lott	District 62
Dennis C. Pounds	District 62
Christopher Prescia	District 62

#### ASPHALTIC CONCRETE PAVING INSPECTION

John D. Gasaway	District 04
Devin M. Caldwell	District 05
Jearmon D. Canfield	District 05
Joshua D. Cook	District 61
Gary M. O'Neal	District 61
Traci J. Maurin	District 62

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# PERSONNEL UPDATES

(MARCH 2008-MAY 2008)

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## NEW HIRES

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Ernest Bergeron, Alice Blaise,  
Kelly Guidry

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Monica Krieg, Paul Landry

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

None

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Deborah Kemper

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Billy Slagle

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

None

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

None

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Jeffery Chatelain, Cary  
McNamara

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

None

## HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Sabrina Ames, Andy Aucoin,  
James Ball, Jessica Boudreaux,  
David Brasset, Alicia Broden,  
Nicholas Broussard, Mauria  
Caldwell, Johnathan Calhoun,  
James Chatagnier, Phillip  
Coleman, Tamika Coleman,  
Lauren Collins, Jansen Combs,  
Wanda Cox, Torey Crosby,  
Elizabeth Delaney, Nikisha  
Dempsey, Linder Dawson,  
D'Tara Shantee Frank, Shelton

Frazier, Jacob Fusilier, Rita  
Gobert, Suba Herath, Rachel  
Hicks, Cortny Jarrell, Raleigh  
Jinks, Vertie Jordan, Corey  
Landry, Tanesha Landry, Wai  
Law, Nikki Leon, Gaston  
Major, Calvin McKnight,  
Odigwe Mokogwu, Tunisian  
Nevels, Vi Nguyen, Chad  
Parker, Jennifer Richmond,  
Patricia Ritterbeck, Justin  
Schexnayder, Benjamin  
Sepulvado, Chiquita Smothers,  
Robin Spain, Cheyenne Stelly,  
Jeremy Strother, Kenya  
Thomas, Michael Watts,  
Ashleigh Williamson, Rockell  
Windham, Trenise Wolfe,  
Leeton Wood, Margaret Wright

## PROMOTIONS

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Keith Angelette, Clarence  
Birden, Jennifer Branton, Paula  
Garrett, Ennis Johnson

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Lawrence Babineaux, Tony  
Boudreaux, Paul Landry, Z  
Lasseigne

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Jeri Harper, Christopher  
Holmes, Joseph Emerson, Barry  
Williams

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Christopher Brazzel, Kelly  
Denmon, Reginald Simmons,  
Jason Springfield, Bradley  
Waller

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

None

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Blaine Buchanan, Daniel  
Guillory, Wallace Martin,  
Glenda Metoyer, Don Mitcham,  
Jason Roark

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Robert Bass, Carl Carson,  
Christopher Greer,  
Shandalynn Kenney, Michael  
Snowden

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Joseph Dillard, Wanda Jarreau,  
Michael Ng, Lester Williams

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Rodney Husser, L.K. Jones,  
Stephen Stewart, Betty Tarver

## HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Tanya Bankston, Ronald  
Bonnette, Ronald Broadbent,  
Debra Coco, Jody Colvin, Carl  
Courville, Wanda Crawford,  
John Galtney, Venice Grigsby,  
Ananda Herath, Charles Hill,  
Tonia Jackson, James Jarreau,  
William King, Ethan Matte,  
Callen Mayard, Carol McClure,  
Debra Middleton, Robert Muse,  
Peggy Olivier, Mary Ory,  
Clifton Peterson, Amanda  
Ratcliff, Roger Rutland,  
William Shaffer, Letha Stevens,  
Patrick Toney, Daria West,  
George White

## RETIREMENTS

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Woodward Hebert

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*See PERSONNEL, page 13*

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## PERSONNEL (continued)

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

James Badeaux, Christopher Hanks, Mable Lejeune

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Travis Cayton, Robert Wheeler

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Allen Henderson, John Howard, Donald Ray, Donald Smith

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Shawn Cormier, Roderick Fuselier

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

James Beebe, Davin Marshall, James Monnier, Murrell Paige, James Walker, George Weatherford

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Robert May

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Craig David, James Ott, Michael Schutzman

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Donald Burch, Phyllis Harrison, Gwenon James, John Pigott, Paul Villemarette

### HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Marilyn Bessonett, Paul Charron, John Collins, Carolyn Doughty, Ronald Goynes, Robert Houston, Paul Landry, Edwin McClanahan, Jacqueline McGee, Patty Parsons, Michael Pendergrass, David Williams, James Yates

## HR HOT TOPICS

As a result of the 2007 Employee Satisfaction Survey, the Human Resources Department has identified some key action items to address the survey findings. Below is a list of the action items and their status. For more information, please contact Susan Pellegrin at (225) 379-1259

ACTION ITEM	STATUS AS OF AUGUST 2008
Instill spirit of teamwork throughout DOTD with a top-down approach	DOTD executives to receive feedback on leadership/teambuilding via 360 Degree Feedback process; will participate in off-site leadership enhancement activities fall 2008.
Re-establish secretary's District/Section site visits	Secretary Ankner established 2008 schedule; visited all field offices.
Develop and implement an Employee Retention Plan	Employee Retention Plan implemented summer 2008
Improve agency's Employee Recognition Program	Revised program is drafted; Executive Staff & Civil Service Commission to review fall 2008. Will implement January 2009.
Improve effectiveness of DOTD Grievance Program	HR researched, assessed current program and developed strategy to enhance effectiveness. Will implement plan fall 2008.
Revitalize DOTD's Recruiting Program	2008 Recruiting Plan implemented as recommended by QCIP Team 17.3.
Advocate employee concerns about rising health insurance premiums	All employee written concerns were forwarded to the Office of Group Benefits for consideration at a Fall 2008 OGB board meeting.
Implement improvements to PPR Process	QCIP Team 20 improvements have been implemented. New QCIP PPR team will re-study specific areas; to kick off fall 2008.
Develop plan to understand agency staffing needs	Actions encompassed by 2007 Succession Plan; 2008 Retention and Retention Plans; 2008 proposal to identify needed positions in section/district T.O.; review of section/district overtime data; 2008/09 partnering activities with Field HR; and HR's 2008 Workplans resulting from 2008 S/D Head Survey.



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# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

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(QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 2007)

## HEADQUARTERS

### Employee of the Quarter

Patti Morgan

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Valmond Falks, Kendall Stogner, Johnny Sanford, Jonathan LaDatto, Mark Williams, Thomas Chris Matherne

## DISTRICT 02

### Employee of the Quarter

Sharon Terrebonne

### Manager of the Quarter

Jacquel Flagg

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Lynette Breaux, Susan Davis

## DISTRICT 03

### Employee of the Quarter

Wade A. Duplechin

### Manager of the Quarter

Brian A. Ducote

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Randall D. Abshire, Toby J. Cormier, Joshua K. Hebert, Kevin P. Leleux, Roger J. Leonard, Ronald Dale Roger, Bernie J. Touchet

## DISTRICT 04

### Employee of the Quarter

Shirley Debusk

### Manager of the Quarter

Jim Finley

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Cornell Murphy, Jason Pierce,

David Swicegood

## DISTRICT 05

### Employee of the Quarter

Kenneth Harlow

### Manager of the Quarter

Dalton E. Newell

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

M.E. "Buster" Williamson, Donald W. Smith, Tim Gunther, David Jones

## DISTRICT 07

### Employee of the Quarter

Steve LaBouve

### Manager of the Quarter

Damon Cooley

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## DISTRICT 08

### Employee of the Quarter

Marilyn Bryan

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## DISTRICT 58

### Employee of the Quarter

Kevin Currington

### Manager of the Quarter

Michael Snowden

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Jeffery Graham, John Day Jr., Benjamin Purvis, John Dupuy, David Eley, Jordan Blossom, Robert Daniels, Christopher Greer

## DISTRICT 61

### Employee of the Quarter

Michael Ng

### Manager of the Quarter

Hewitt J. Beauvais

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Mike Procell, Earl Thompson

## DISTRICT 62

### Employee of the Quarter

Kathy Lamonica

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Quentin Allen, Gerald Blackwell, Richard Brown Jr., Evelyn Carter, Robin Crawford, Jamie Donnell Cryer, John Danna Jr., Darrell Grice, Linda Hutton, Johnny Jackson, Raymond Lexia Jr., Tyrone McKinley, Lonnie Moore, Margie Narcisse, Martin Narcisse, Roger Pittman, Glenn Slaven, Curtis Thomas Jr., Jason Thompson, Steve Travis, Jim Viola, William Wall

### Secretary's Award of Excellence

Jarrett Lambert

## CCCD

### Employee of the Quarter

Helen Delatte

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Sgt. Theron Armstrong, Helen Delatte, Christopher Fletcher, Guy Gonzales

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# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

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(QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 2007)

## **Headquarters**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Gary Lecoq

### **Manager of the Quarter**

No recipient

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Mary Ann Hawkins, Lache Anderson

## **District 02**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Brady Giroir

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Fred Wetekamm

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Robert Augillard, Alvin Butcher, Leander Craft, Latoya Druhet, Aquitta Edwards, Theodore Encalade, Edmond Gipson, Jane M. Gonzales, Donald Harris, James Jarrell, Antoinette Jones, Edward Kinler, Rita Knott, Gerard Lewis, Leslie McCarty, Irwin Miller, Richard Montegut, Willie Nunez, Anthony Reynolds, Ronald Secco, Cedric Smith, James Terry, Shane Tierney

## **District 03**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Todd Kidder

### **Manager of the Quarter**

No recipient

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Tiffany Lacombe, Tance Fremin

## **District 04**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

No recipient

### **Manager of the Quarter**

No recipient

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Kerry L. Williams, Cortez

Hardy, Mona K. Smith, Gregory N. Jones

## **District 05**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

No recipient

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Vincent Giovino

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

David Murrell, Thomas Murray, Rodney McFarland

## **District 07**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

David Simmons

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Kevin Seilhan

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Ronnie Belflower, Dale Conner, Charles Dansby, Rodrick Fusilier, Clay Guidry, John Hall, Jared Hoffpauir, Sally LeJeune, Harold Manuel, Rick Manuel, Chris Parnell, Garlen Pierce, Marlon Scott, Sam Simien, Russell Singleton, Eddie Smith, Eddie Sterling, Fred Wayne Trahan, Joseph Trahan, Randy Wolf

## **District 08**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Charles Washington

### **Manager of the Quarter**

No recipient

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Thomas Johnson, Janice Lucas, David Matlock, Virginia Mitcham, Terry Oswald, Danny

Welch

## **District 58**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Allen Linder

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Joe Foy

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Trent Bradley, Steve Cooper, Alan Dupuy, Chad Parks Dupuy, John Evans, Mike Free, Tracy Hilbun, Jeff Hill, Philip Hutto, Allen Linder, Rusty Ragsdale, Glen R. Smith

## **District 61**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Betty Wallace

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Ronnie Robinson

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

No recipient

## **District 62**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Alfred Cyprian

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Shelia Tate

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

No recipient

## **CCCD**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Raymond E. Fauchaux Jr.

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Joseph Tortorich

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Larry Anderson, Jacob Coleman, Helen DeLatte, Sherry Ducote, Johnson Hale, Christopher Pesson, Gary Yacher

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# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

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(QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2008)

## Headquarters

### Employee of the Quarter

Daria West

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Connie Boudreaux, Bill Shrewsbury, Karla Sibille, Wanda Vick, Janice Williams

## District 02

### Employee of the Quarter

Edwin Dardar

### Manager of the Quarter

Charles O'Neal

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Gail Boudreaux, Maria Guccione, Linda Johnson, Sandy Romero, Keshawn Shakir, Emma Suggs, Lilly Sue Tullos

## District 03

### Employee of the Quarter

Nicholas Fruge

### Manager of the Quarter

Chris J. Lissard

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Glenn Citrano, August Fuselier, Joshua Hebert, Jeremy Kline, Rixby LeBlanc, Ronald Roger, Joseph Simon, Chad Theriot, Bernie Touchet, John R. Trahan

## District 04

### Employee of the Quarter

Marvin Ford

### Manager of the Quarter

Jim Hollier

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

James Bison, Milton Bonepart, John Carte, Grady Hardman, Gary May

## District 05

### Employee of the Quarter

George Skains

### Manager of the Quarter

Mickel Cupit

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Chester Coburn, Johnny Cole, Chris Corrent, Melissa French, Daniel L. Johnson, David Marine, Mike Nugent, Sylvester Williams

## District 07

### Employee of the Quarter

Russell Singleton

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Clay Guidry, Tammy Menasco, A.J. Picarazzi, Edward Smith Sr., Dallas Thibodeaux, Steve Young

## District 08

### Employee of the Quarter

Joyce Cooper

### Manager of the Quarter

Dale Craig

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Nocoma Clark, Justin Dunn, Jason Gagnard

## District 58

### Employee of the Quarter

Brenda Cruse

### Manager of the Quarter

Monty Bradley

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Reid Caldwell, Brandon Eldridge, Connie King, Billie Massey, Kimberly Thompson

## District 61

### Employee of the Quarter

Kenneth "Bud" Cage

### Manager of the Quarter

Dwane Doucet

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Demond Domino, Dwane Doucet, Vernon Ducote, Lajoy Robertson

## District 62

### Employee of the Quarter

No recipient

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Frank Arnone, Eugene Babin, Donnie Bankston, Jack Coslan, Roy DiBenedetto, Anthony Santangelo, Russell Viola

## CCCD

### Employee of the Quarter

Dionne Robateau

### Manager of the Quarter

Eva Stewart

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

George Vamprine, Robert Devine

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# YEARLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

(YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2007)

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## Headquarters

### Employee of the Year

Gary Lecoq

### Manager of the Year

Maurice Songy

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Cheryl Duvieilh-Windham,

Timothy Strohschein

### Secretary's Award of

### Excellence

Janice Bernard, Robin

Boudreaux, Helen Carmona,

Ellen Catherine, Cecelia Donald,

Lynette Gray-Chambers,

Sherri LeBas, Lisa Leonard,

Jerry Mason, Carol Diane

McClure, Kay McRae, JoAnne

Peltier, Earlene Trogolo

## District 02

### Employee of the Year

Trebor Breaux

### Manager of the Year

Timothy J. Hassenboehler

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Hayes Bailly, Wilton Callais,

Emery Chauvin, Murphy Dehart,

Brady Giroir, Jerry Lundy,

Charles O'Neal, Tyrrell

Reinhardt, Noble Thibodeaux

## District 03

### Employee of the Year

Todd Kidder

### Manager of the Year

Charles Moran

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Harry Bernard, Oscar Dominique,

Darrel Joseph Guidry, Philip P.

Norman, Wiley Joseph Robin

Jr., Allen J. Smith Jr.

## District 04

### Employee of the Year

Patricia A. Anderson

### Manager of the Year

Larry Wood

### Best Team Effort of the Year

District 04

## District 05

### Employee of the Year

Gregory Nappier

### Manager of the Year

No recipients

### Best Team Effort of the Year

District 05

## District 07

### Employee of the Year

Janis Arrant

### Manager of the Year

Damon Cooley

### Best Team Effort of the Year

District 07

## District 08

### Employee of the Year

Sandra Doherty

### Manager of the Year

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Year

District 08

## District 58

### Employee of the Year

Alan Dupuy

### Manager of the Year

Chad Parks

### Best Team Effort of the Year

District 58

## District 61

### Employee of the Year

Billy Wascom

### Manager of the Year

Jim Ott

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Duane P. Alleman, Alfred Allen,

Olen Batiste, Terry Denson,

Anthony Harrell, Kenzie Littles,

Mitchell Pinsonat, Warren

Winfield

## District 62

### Employee of the Year

Phyllis Harrison

### Manager of the Year

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Year

No recipient

## CCCD

### Employee of the Year

Jason Franklin Sr.

### Manager of the Year

Joseph Tortorich

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Timmy Charles, Bertrand W.

Donnes Jr., Gale H. Duplessis,

Jo Ann A. Fernandez, Jason

Franklin, Peter E. Maggiore,

Randall M. Paisant, Joe

Tortorich

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# DOTD observes Work Zone Awareness Week

In observance of National Work Zone Awareness Week, which was held April 7-11, DOTD assembled a work-zone cone memorial on the front lawn of its headquarters building in Baton Rouge.

Since 1992, 166 people have died from motor-vehicle crashes in Louisiana's work zones.

DOTD Secretary William D. Ankner, Ph.D., said, "The Governor and the legislature have been very generous with the surplus funds recently provided to DOTD. Between the surplus funds and DOTD's regular capital funds, DOTD is spending nearly \$1.9 billion on construction projects this year and next year. That amount of money will produce a lot of work, and that work will result in a lot of orange cones and barrels on the roads.

"The construction will impact your travel, and I know this will cause frustration. I apologize for this in advance. But, for your safety and for the safety of other travelers, I beg you to drive carefully in work zones. Follow the speed limit, don't talk or text on your cell phone, and pay attention to driving so that the people who are trying to provide you with better roads are able to go home at the end of the day to their loved ones.

"We must remember that these work zones are helping to provide a better transportation system to the citizens of Louisiana," he said.

The work-zone cone memorial in front of the DOTD headquarters building was erected in remembrance of the 1,010 people killed nationwide in work zones in 2006 – the most recent year for which fig-



*The memorial in front of the headquarters building represented 1,010 people killed nationwide in work zones in 2006.*

ures were available from the federal Fatality Analysis Reporting System – including 19 deaths in Louisiana. DOTD statistics show that 824 injuries occurred in Louisiana work zones in 2006.

Some of DOTD's district offices around the state – Alexandria, Chase, Hammond and Lake Charles – also put up cone memorials to represent the 19 people killed in Louisiana work zones in 2006.

The department also hosted a "Work Zone Safety Day" Thursday, April 10, at the Interstate 10 Toomey Welcome Center as part of Work Zone Awareness Week.



*The memorial erected at District 58 during National Work Zone Awareness week represented the 19 people killed in Louisiana Work Zones in 2006.*



*DOTD's Karla Sibille, right, gives away orange items at the Interstate 10 Toomey Welcome Center to promote National Work Zone Awareness Week.*



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# MAILBAG



Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is John D. Hartz and I would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend the Toll Tag Office staff. I received two citations for violating the toll tag lane, even though my toll tag was displayed and account was in good standing. When I went to the Toll Tag Office, I spent a minimal amount of time waiting in line. I was courteously greeted at the window [by Richard Parisi]. I explained my situation and presented my license. Less than five minutes later, the staff member handling my case informed me that my account had been charged the appropriate toll fee, the citations had been cleared, and was provided documentation stating those facts. I was impressed with the efficient manner in which my situation was resolved. I was pleased with the respect and patience extended to me while I was explaining my problems. The overall professionalism of this office is outstanding. Thank you again.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Hartz, Chief Warrant Officer

United States Marine Corps. Retired

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Dear Mr. [Will] Murray,

On behalf of the Military Road Alliance I would like to thank you and LaDOTD for the prompt repair of a problem area on LA 1090 at the north crossing of Cross Gates Boulevard. The member subdivisions and the people who travel through this intersection certainly appreciate the correction and repair of this section of LA 1090 that was getting worse by the day.

Sincerely,

David L. Doherty, Jr.

President, Military Road Alliance

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Dear DOTD,

I want to commend one of you MASP employees. Unfortunately I did not get his name. I had a blowout between Clearview and Veterans in Jefferson Parish on the way home this afternoon. I attempted to change the tire, but had problems being able to get it loose. This gentleman did not just provide assistance to me in getting the lugnut loose and thus letting me change the tire, he did the whole thing in a flash. He was very nice and professional. When done, since I was in the neutral ground and there was lots of traffic, he stopped traffic in the left lane so that I could merge. Some might say he was just "doing his job," but as a government employee myself, I know that we are often taken for granted. I wanted to express my thanks to him and to your program - great idea!

Walter Prince

Dear Ms. [Connie] Standige,

This is a letter of compliment. Back in February I noticed that our historical marker, placed on Hwy. 190 in Lacombe in 1979 by the Bayou Lacombe Bicentennial Commission had been knocked down.

I wrote [former] Secretary Bradberry and then called [the Hammond district office]. Within a short time, I received a call from Mr. Larry Garofalo, who arranged to meet me at the marker location. He and I disassembled and removed the graphic upper portion of the marker. Mr. Garofalo took it back to the shop for repair and refurbishment...Once that was done Mr. Garofalo...returned with Mr. Ernest Hemphill and constructed a new concrete pedestal base in a new location.

I [commend] Larry and Ernest for their prompt and efficient response to a citizen's need. Their action, and those of others in the department, demonstrates the attention and efficiency which the DOTD gave our request. It is appreciated.

They conducted themselves with ability, proficiency, courtesy, and efficiency. Their performance speaks well for the department and gives me hope for continued progress in Louisiana. It is seldom that a governmental bureaucracy responds in such a concerned and immediate manner to an ordinary citizen's petition. You are to be congratulated.

Regards,

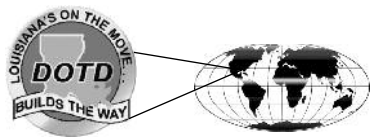
Tom Aicklen, Coordinator

Lacombe Heritage Center

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## COMMUTER LINES

Louisiana DOTD  
Public Information Office  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245



[www.dotd.la.gov](http://www.dotd.la.gov)

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## International publication features Materials Lab

**D**OTD's Materials Lab was recently recognized in an international publication, PANalytical Inc.'s X-Ray Globe newsletter. The bi-annual newsletter, which is not highly technical and contains a wealth of everyday X-ray fluorescence spectrometry facts and figures, is mainly distributed at trade shows.

In the article, DOTD's Michael Bailey explains that the department's Materials and Testing Section's Chemical Unit has for many years served as the department's primary testing facility and as a support arm for other laboratory units within the section, as well as for the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, district laboratories, DOTD's Procurement Section and other state and municipal agencies.

As the only chemical laboratory within the department to provide a full range of evaluation services for cementitious products, the Cement

Unit provides a vital resource to the department, contractors, cement mills and other customers.

In 2002, just months after acquiring a state-of-the-art PANalytical X-ray fluorescence spectrometer, DOTD's Chemical Unit achieved American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials accreditation for the first time, designating DOTD as Louisiana's only AASHTO-accredited facility for hydraulic cement chemical analysis. With these advances, the Materials Laboratory's Chemical Unit is able to consistently achieve superior test results in the Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory Proficiency Sample Program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The article further details that in July 2007, the Materials Lab was among the first in the United States to purchase PANalytical's OBLF GS



*Michael Bailey uses a spectrometer to analyze various materials.*

1000 Optical Emission spectrometer to conduct analysis of different metals used in DOTD's construction and maintenance programs. The one-step sample preparation and one-step analysis of optical emission spectrometry has significantly reduced the lab's testing time.

To read the article, visit [www.panalytical.com/index.cfm?pid=38](http://www.panalytical.com/index.cfm?pid=38).